

G.S. Lakie School Council Minutes

November 28, 2017

Attendees:

Administrators and Staff: Sharon Mezei, Kyle McKenzie, Ben Kubik.

Parents: Nancy Purkis, Lisa Althouse, Amanda McKee, Bonnie Takats, Carlye Lynnes, Corinne Steele, Brian Palsky, Raila Duda.

District Representatives: Cheryl Gilmore, Rick Jesse, Bill Bartlett, Morag Asquith.

Call to Order: 6:00pm

1. Reports

a) Teacher – Ben Kubik

Term 2 has started. Ben is part of the CTF Innovative Project Design class. There are 79 students enrolled during this term, they are being taught by multiple teachers (Gord Smith, Lori Adamson, Paul Bohnert). They participate in a variety of activities, starting with Leadership exercises this term. The class is Process Driven and design based. This will be offered to students in all grades, but will go from smaller projects for gr 6, mid size in gr 7, and larger builds for the gr 8 class.

b) Vice Principal – Kyle McKenzie

Kyle has been working on updating the school website. Current links include: School Youtube account, Twitter, individual calendars for various activities (athletics, arts...), homework boards, teacher bios, School Cash Online, Powerschool, bussing & routes. A new 'parent gallery' is being developed, Joesph Wright takes many high quality pictures are various school activities and they will be made available to parents (via a login screen) so that parents can download them and not have to worry about taking pics themselves.

Fundraiser update – The Powercard fundraiser went very well. Over 80% of the money collected goes to the school! That is after both the cost of the cards and the prize incentives given out to students. This year's fundraised earned over \$50K which will go towards the new outdoor sports park that is being planned!

We would like to thank the following local stores for their support with helping to provide prizes for the incentive: Alpenland, Bert & Mac's, Best Buy, and Sportchek.

c) Principal – Sharon Mezei

The Multi Sport Park design will be presented at the January School Council Meeting by Sharon & Terry Hagel. Doug James has been involved in the planning along with a design group.

“Middle Class” is a one act play that is running this week, the 25th Gatorstock took place last week.

The Staff partook in a Blanket Exercise, 2 Elders opened the team building activities at the school. Facilitators ran the exercise. Afterwards the staff went to Waterton and listened to the first 3 chapters of the book “Absolute True Diary of a Part Time Indian” by Sherman Alexie, after which they all received a copy. The book is written as an anecdotal story of a boy growing up poor on ‘the res’. There are a few copies available at the school if parents would like to read them. The elders then shared their personal experiences at Residential schools, followed by a short Q&A Period. The staff filled out exit forms after the event, and indicated that they Blanket Exercise was very informative, and they didn’t realize how little they knew.

The Administration team has been working on an Educational Plan for the school, based in part on the Accountability Pillars Survey. They would like to improve areas of lower parent satisfaction such as preparing kids for future work, and communicating effectively with parents. The Plan will be made public in January.

d) District School Council – Corinne Steele

There was an excellent turnout for the first District School Council meeting of the year. The new trustees were introduced, Tyler Demers will remain our trustee for the school year. The Dec 4 meeting has been cancelled since it is the evening of the Blanket Exercise. There are still some spots available, they can be reserved by contacting Lee-Ann Tedder at the District office.

2. Old Business

a) New middle school update – Bill Bartlett

Things are moving more quickly now, classroom furniture was ordered this morning after consultation with a team of G.S.Lakie teachers. Hopefully the Shop & Band equipment will be ordered before Christmas. The staffing process is slated to begin in early spring. The building is now sealed in, and there are 10 portables on site. The School Naming committee will meet on Dec 11.

b) Council Email Update – Lisa

The new group email set up by the district is not working, therefore school council has reverted to using the gmail account that was set up last year.

3. New Business

a) New Middle School Name – There is a form on the District site where suggestions can be submitted (but only until Dec 1). The forms will be reviewed by the School Naming Committee.

b) Chapters Fundraiser – Will run on Dec 7 from 5:30-9. 20% of sales will go the school.

c) Town Hall Meeting – Scheduled for Tues Feb 6, 6:30-8:30. Topic TBA. This is a lively event with round table discussions, live voting, and compilation of ideas.

4. Guiding Principles for Boundaries – Cheryl Gilmore

Every school start up is unique and based on a combination of various factors including geography, demographics and future projections.

Parent input was requested, some of the concerns brought up were the proximity of using Whoop Up as a boundary, since it is so close to the school. Many parents felt that all students within the 2.4km 'walking boundary' should be allowed to stay at GSLakie. Having feeder schools was also mentioned, as currently both Nicholas Sheran and Coalbanks would see a split in where the students are placed.

Rick asked if school size/equal distribution of numbers important? Cheryl mentioned that if numbers are too low it poses problems for staffing, as well as offering various programs.

Current enrollment at G.S.Lakie is just over 900. Using Whoop Up as a boundary would provide an approximately even split.

Rick Jesse will be meeting with Lakie staff on Friday re Staff Movement. Bill Bartlett will require Admin Support soon so that he can start planning, and the hiring timelines will be determined in early 2018.

There is a public meeting TENTATIVELY booked for March 20 (location TBD, but possibly at G.S.Lakie). Bill Bartlett will talk about School Programs, introduce some staff and announce school boundaries.

Ben Kubik reminded parents that it will be a year of change for BOTH schools, in terms of staff & students and will be an exciting and positive time for both.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

The next meeting will be held January 30, 2018 at 6:00pm

Minutes were prepared by Nancy Purkis.